

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented): A method for tracking and utilizing a data storage device, comprising:

tracking a physical location of said data storage device based on a RF tag placed on said data storage device before said data storage device reaches a customer;

entering information about said data storage device into a database through reading said RF tag when the customer receives said data storage device from a manufacturer;

storing said data storage device in an inventory based on said RF tag;

retrieving said data storage device from said inventory based on said RF tag;

placing said data storage device into service based on said RF tag; and

communicating a location and hardware and software configuration information of said data storage device to said manufacturer via the RF tag and a remote monitoring system utilizing an electronic data interchange (EDI), the remote monitoring system being outfitted with an RF reader;

wherein said RF tag contains the hardware and software configuration information about said data storage device, and said data storage device is a drive tray or a controller.

13-17. (cancelled)

18. (withdrawn): A method for a manufacturer to maintain a data storage device, comprising:

notifying a manufacturer of a failure or potential failure of a data storage device; and

locating said data storage device via a RF tag placed on said data storage device and via global positioning system by said manufacturer,

wherein said RF tag contains hardware and software configuration information about said data storage device.

19. (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein said notifying step is performed via a remote monitoring system and SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) technology.

20. (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, further comprising repairing said data storage device.

21. (withdrawn): The method of claim 20, further comprising writing repair and modification information on said RF tag.

22. (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, further comprising communicating with a billing system of said manufacturer via said RF tag and sending charge to a customer.

23. (withdrawn): A method for a manufacturer to repair a returned data storage device, comprising:

reading a RF tag attached on a returned data storage device, said RF tag containing hardware and software configuration information about said returned data storage device; and

inquiring whether a warranty period for said returned data storage device has expired or whether said hardware and software configuration information is different from original configuration information.

24. (withdrawn): The method of claim 23, further comprising routing said returned data storage device to a correct location for repair and reconfiguration based on said RF tag when said warranty period has not expired and when said hardware and software configuration information is not different from said original configuration information.
25. (withdrawn): The method of claim 24, further comprising repairing said returned data storage device.
26. (withdrawn): The method of claim 25, further comprising storing a new configuration on said RF tag.
- 27-32. (cancelled)